

not what the government wants for them, and address the lawsuit abuse that is so badly needed and is not addressed in the Senate bill.

How bad is this health care bill? Madam Speaker, it's bad enough that the American people are saying, "Just say no."

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it's time to unite behind President Obama's plan. We must deliver affordable health care for the American people. Insurance companies have taken advantage of hardworking Americans for far too long. It's morally wrong to put profits over people, and it must come to an end.

I urge my colleagues to put aside their differences and deliver a victory for the American people. This Congress was elected to accomplish this goal. How can we accomplish this goal of health insurance reform without holding the insurance companies accountable?

I'm for the people of America, and I stand with you. Now is the time for us to, in unity, come together and solve this dilemma for the American people. I urge you to vote "yes" for people over process.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, this time the process is substance. As the Democratic majority prepares to jam President Obama's health care through Congress despite his lack of support from the American people, our constituents need to know what is going on about the process.

Yesterday in Ohio, President Obama demanded that members of his own party show courage and vote for his vision of health care, yet this morning, the front page headline in The Washington Post reads "Pelosi may try to pass health bill without vote."

In the body of this story, the Speaker refers to a procedural scheme to allow the President to sign the Senate-passed health bill without the House actually voting on it or even debating it. She said, "It's more insider and process-oriented than most people want to know. But I like it because people don't have to vote on the Senate bill." Imagine that. Affecting 17 percent of the entire U.S. economy without a public vote in the House.

My colleagues, I ask you, is that courage?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, in the State of Connecticut last weekend, we had an opportunity to see the health care crisis up close. Mission of Mercy, a national organization that holds free dental clinics, was in Middletown, Connecticut, and Connecticut—the wealthiest per capita income State in America—shattered the Mission of Mercy record, serving 2,045 working adults sleeping in their cars, lining up two nights before to get access to dental care. We're not talking about teeth whitening or teeth cleaning; we're talking about people walking in with abscesses that were so pronounced that it threatened the stability of their jaws, extractions, major surgery. This is the state of health care in America today.

There is one group, though, that doesn't have to sleep in their car to get health care: Members of Congress, who participate in a Federal purchasing exchange subsidized by the American taxpayer. Madam Speaker, how do they demonize a plan which they benefit from every single day courtesy of the American taxpayer? I don't know how they do that.

This week they have an opportunity to help those people who were lined up in their cars over the weekend to get the same access to care that those people who work every day pay with their taxes.

Vote for health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, we have talked a lot about how this bill is distracting us from the issue that the American people want us to focus on, and that is jobs. But this bill isn't just merely a distraction. It will have a profoundly negative impact on the job market.

You cannot raise taxes by hundreds of billions of dollars on individuals and businesses and expect that it has no impact on employers and employees. Raising taxes per employee by \$2,000 would not encourage businesses to hire more workers, and workers receiving health care subsidies would see their new Federal entitlement evaporate when their wages increase by too much. Under this bill, more pay could mean less health care, effectively trapping workers in lower-wage jobs. So not only would this discourage job growth, it would discourage wage growth also.

The bottom line is this bill will destroy jobs at a time when we can least afford it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. It's as simple as this: Are you for what the insurance companies

are doing, or are you against it? Do you think it's right to cut your mother off her insurance because she's had a catastrophic cancer? I don't. Do you think it's right to deny your sister insurance because she had a cesarean section? Do you think it's right for insurance companies to raise rates 39 percent all at one time, forcing businesses to choose between health care or firing people? I don't.

If you think it's right for the insurance companies to do this to your son, daughter, or mother, join the Republicans in opposing health care reform. I don't think it's right. In fact, I think it's an outrage. That is why I know we must pass health care reform now.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Today, as million of Americans around the country fill out their brackets, March Madness is in the air. Unfortunately, the madness isn't restricted to the basketball court. As Congress rushes to pass a health care bill that is so bad even the majority party can't stomach it, we've got our own case of March Madness right here in Congress, but ours is worse.

With March Madness, every game is played on TV in full view of the American public; in House Madness, the legislation is written in secret behind closed doors. In March Madness, you play for bragging rights; in the House bill in House Madness, it's matters of life and death, one-sixth of the national economy, and more than \$1 trillion in tax dollars.

In March Madness, the team with the most points wins. In House Madness, you rewrite the rules with procedural tricks so that the team with fewer votes can win. It's time to blow the whistle, call a foul, and stop this Madness.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I come here to let you know my mother turned 100 on January 4 after she had a broken hip, and 2 days before Christmas another broken hip, and last night she broke her femur. And just a few minutes ago, they called me to say she was in need of a blood transfusion.

I want you to know the only way we kept the mother of four who put all of us through college is because of Medicare and our insurances.

Madam Speaker, let us not let Americans die unnecessarily. This women's sister—my mother's sister—lived to 106, and I will do everything in my power to be sure that other Americans can benefit from the kind of health care reform we're proposing today.